

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT

NICKEL, Siegfried

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

1. AELADLE, a former KGB staff officer with limited knowledge of KGB operations in Germany as well as Austria, was interviewed by members of the BND for the period 15-23 January 1963. The BND was specifically interested in matters of their own staff security and provided AELADLE in several cases with rather complete bio and background data on members of the BND.

2. The attached summary has been transcribed from the tapes of the BND AELADLE discussions. The BND was represented by GOERNHARDT, Mr. BOCK, GHERDER, Mr. HEISTER, PETERS, Mr. FISCHER, and EFLDER, Mr. GAERTNER. AELADLE is cited as [] throughout the tapes. CEE G CE was present as [] and C. C. R&A [] in true name. Readers will note that much of the bio data was provided by one or more of the BND members. The interviews were performed in the English language, native to neither the BND nor AELADLE, therefore this accounts for some of the stilted language used. The BND is in possession of this same material.

3. Any contemplated action based on this information or queries concerning the Subject of this file, should be cleared with EE G L, CEE G CE, C SR/CI and DC/CI in that order prior to any action.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006

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A No. I know that there was a German ex-officer was recruited in '55 without mentioning cryptonym.

F Well, I think that's it. Let's try another one. This one here, you see  is picture here. During the war he has been a big shot of the so-called Hitler Jugend which means the Youth Organization of the Nazi Party. His true name is ^{Siegfried} NICKEL. N-I-C-K-E-L and he has been with the so-called Waffen SS during the war, being the Army Organization of the National Socialist Party. It originated in the National Socialist Party Storm Troops and later turned out to be more or less a normal Army outfit, the Waffen SS. These were the troops with the marks with the marks on the arm you know, you remember? Before the war he studied Russian language especially and we think he speaks almost fluently Russian. For the Hitler Youth he was one of the big speakers. His main - let's say duty - was to make big speeches on the propaganda side and in trying to get new people interested in the activities of the Hitler Youth. He came in July 1952 in connection with our service under the cover name of KORTMANN.

Yes, another cover name NEUBERT, and his official targets in his intelligence was to win sources in Russia, in Poland, and in the Balkans. He was especially in the field of the so-called "Tiefen Arbeit". His main interest was not the Eastern part of Germany but the Satellite countries and

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the Soviet Union itself. He was a very long time in one of our outfits in Cologne and in Frankfurt where he had almost weekly contacts with one of FELFE's team, with the second man of FELFE. And he was I think very tightly linked up by his duties, of course, with the second man in the FELFE team which makes him very interesting of course. He's been a Russian prisoner of war from April 1945 and he's been in one of the camps called Regime camps. We have it right here, his record of his time in Russia. He's been in Rodnitsniya and Leningrad, and in Sveststri.

A No, I don't know such person. I have never heard about him. But it's of course clear that all war prisoners should be studied as possible agents, especially if they have been in Intelligence before.

F Oh yes, checked very carefully.

M There's been one operation connected with this man. There was a woman

Erika Strucker

who pertained to the Communist Party in East Berlin and she acted as Krankenschwester, as nurse, in the Krankenhaus of Karlshorst where the Soviet Trade Mission, and by that means a good deal of Intelligence Officers were in continual -

A She made contact with her -

M She was working there because she spoke Russian and she was a hand of them, something like a civil employee.

A A German or a Russian ?

*UJDRIL YOP
(BND crypt
BISQUIT)*

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*Born in USSR.
sometimes more Russ
than Germ.*

M German woman.

F A German woman being a nurse employed by the Russians in Karlshorst, taking care of Russian officers of all kinds of sorts even Intelligence officers which came into the dispensary for treatment.

M And thus she had for years all the personal data of people who applied to that hospital.

A And what time was it ?

M It began shortly after the war. She got into contact and that special contact which for women is typical to Soviet people shortly after '45 or in '45 or so and maintained this contact and was employed in this hospital.

A Till '51, or later ?

F And later on.

M Still today she is pretendedly. And pretendedly she fell in love to a Soviet officer who was called MINAYEV (phonetic) and he tried to marry her but he wasn't given allowance for that. And so this line was looked at by us as a possible defection operation line; at one time when that MINAYEV came back he was sent to the Soviet Union but he was a Trade official, Foreign Trade official. Our people thought he must come back, he must do his business and perhaps if - so anybody ran if in any part of the world one MINAYEV showed up. But it resulted in nothing.

A In what year he was recalled ?

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M It's not in my memory, I confess.

F Do we have the case down in our - I think we have. I think we have the case with us.

F It should be of interest to have your view of this operation.

R NICKEL laid this on, is that it ?

F KORTMANN was the case officer.

M And that case has been run by Caesar and it was in connection with your people . . .

A Of course it was not a secret that there were many such KGB agents in surroundings. They practically control all these employees. They are a mass among Germans employees. I spoke with the person who created this net, who was the head of this unit - this so-called protection net. And they have agents among all most vital points and they prevent defections and establish time when the Western Intelligence approaches and they carry out some games with the West.

F Well, you see that's the point. We are asking your advice.

A There were many such operations.

F We do think today -

A Some I knew and some I -

M This is not of importance and for that reason I only take it from my own recollection of it.

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F Well, it may be of importance if we look into NICKEL.

A Oh yes, it can be important. You see from that point they were interested to catch namely those intelligence officers who run these cases to invite him to the Soviet Zone and to recruit him. There were such usually.

F Maybe he has been recruited earlier during the time when he was a prisoner of war.

A In that case, yes it is possible. But I mean during this operation.

F Now I can imagine that this operation really came from the other side to have a - well, a means of contact with KORTMANN in West Berlin almost every day through the nurse. That the nurse was a

A Oh yes, in that way of course he could be - You say he was connected with FELFE?

F Not directly. Not directly.

R FELFE's second. You said he was in contact with FELFE's second.

A I mean it could be run by the same people of course.

M That operation, in the way we supposed it to be run was not - it was really ridiculous; it was not an operation but something happened to us we never realized. It was a pretext . . .

A For example it's important just to control such in order not to allow the real operation, since they are interested to -

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- F Just protection, cover. Mainly protection.
- A At least to know where really the Intelligence try to approach, to know their plans and so on.
- F But you can turn it around any time ?
- A Sometimes it can give them maybe an opportunity to - you know for example they say if they have an agent like that
- M They could offer him -
- A They say he gives through this nurse idea that he wants to defect but has some doubts and he wants to speak to his American Intelligence officer. He comes and they recruit him. They worked in such fashion when it was possible and sometimes they knew such people, American or British, very well.
- M During all the time there might have been hundreds of cases and opportunities like that.
- A Oh yes, there were many. I mean in some instances of course it's not - It's usually such lasted many years.
- M That's not fun, for many years.
- F When an operation like that goes on for years and years -
- A It gives some results but I mean such operation usually -
- F For KGB, not for us. Well, KORTMANN, some more of his stuff ? No I don't think so.